Membership of the Coastal Coordination Council

HB 2612 by Tallas (Patterson)

DIGEST:

HB 2612 would have added the Texas commissioner of agriculture and a member of the Texas Transportation Commission to the Coastal Coordination Council.

GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO: "Adding new members at this time risks slowing the process of developing the Coastal Management Program and revisiting fundamental decisions that the council has already made. After months of effort, the agencies involved in Coastal Management Program planning have recently recommended that the council approve an extensive policy development process. This process will begin in the fall. Adding new members to the Council would subject this process to reexamination and revision and could jeopardize the goal of producing a program that can be approved by the council in February 1994.

"The two members that would be added by this bill do not have as their primary mission the management of the state's natural resources. However, both the Transportation Commission and the Department of Agriculture . . . have been active participants in the development of the program since 1991. They currently work closely and productively with the Council through a state agency task force and several work groups devoted to specific issues. Their continued involvement will help shape the Coastal Management Program and will be critical to its success."

RESPONSE:

Rep. Jim Tallas, the author of HB 2612, said: "I am sorry she did not think that a Department of Transportation Commissioner or the Texas Agriculture Commissioner's professional input was needed on the Council when debating and making decisions relating to the Gulf Coast Region."

NOTES:

HB 2612 passed the House on the Consent Calendar and was not analyzed in a *Daily Floor Report*.